

LITERARY NOTES.

It is noted that while four-fifths of the books published in Paris and London are written in those cities, only the smallest portion of the books published in Paris, the great book centre of Germany, are written in the town itself. There are printed in Germany every year almost as many books as in most of the other chief European languages taken together. But the number of such books that are well written does not stand in favorable proportions to the total.

Count Armin in his new pamphlet ascribes to the late M. Thiers the telling of a good story of Napoleon, which the ex-President used to illustrate a point respecting the Falk laws. A contractor on the field of Waterloo, noticing that the French Army was failing to pieces, tried to revive the Emperor's spirits by telling him that the English had lost an enormous number of men. "Yes," was the prompt reply, "but I have lost the battle."

The demand for small and cheap books there would seem to be no end. The latest novelty is Chambers's "Cyclopedia of English Literature," which the American Book Exchange, of No. 55 Beckman-st., are publishing in eight 16mo volumes, and the first volume of which is just out. The other volumes will follow at the rate of one a month. The complete work will comprise over 3,200 pages, and have an index referring to volumes. The price of it is one of its strongest recommendations, being less than that of the ordinary twelve-volume octavo editions.

Thomas Paine, the anniversary of whose birth is today, is not honored by *The Athenaeum*. In its current number it declares that "a more despicable man" than he cannot easily be found among the ready writers of the eighteenth century. He "sold himself to the highest bidder," and "could be bought at a very low price." His writings have long since "gone the way of all shams." In his private life he was "addicted to the most degrading of vices." Referring to his assault upon Washington, it says "only a thorough-paced rascal could have had the assurance" to make it. The occasion for this extraordinary outpouring of the visits of *The Athenaeum's* wrath is a proportion made by the writer of an article in the *Review of Books* in which he asserted that a cabinet of the "Brooks" cabaret that a movement should be started "recording the wisdom and political virtues of Thomas Paine."

The first number of *The Political*, a new London monthly, contains fifty-six pages and consists of biographical sketches of twelve English economists, among them White Collins, Henry Irving, Francis George Heath, Theodore Martine. There are in preparation for future numbers sketches of W. E. Gladstone, Charles Read, Birkenhead, and Lewisham Jewett. The February number will contain from Mr. Gladstone answers which have already been written to the following questions: (1) "By what mental changes or external causes did Mr. Gladstone consciously pass from the Conservative to the Liberal side?" (2) "To what statesmen has Mr. Gladstone been most indebted for his tuition in the principles or the administrative art in politics?" (3) "Was Mr. Gladstone really surprised at the fate of the Irish University Bill, or did he persist in dealing with the subject as if it still had validity?" (4) "What was the fate of the Irish University Bill, what other Irish schemes, if any, was in his mind?" (5) "Does Mr. Gladstone's 'moral antiquity' fit him well?" (6) "Is he a man of strong character?" (7) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (8) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (9) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (10) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (11) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (12) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (13) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (14) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (15) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (16) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (17) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (18) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (19) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (20) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (21) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (22) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (23) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (24) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (25) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (26) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (27) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" (28) "Is he a man of high moral worth?" 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